

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Commission Chambers
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121
November 14, 2013
6:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: GIPAYA, MARY (MG)
LAYNE, KAREN (KL)
PRATER, MICHAEL, M.D. (MP)
WHITE, DEBBIE DVM (DW)
VALENZUELA, ALMA (AV)

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m

2. Approval of agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded

3. Approval of October 17, 2013 Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded.

4. Discuss use of motorized boats in lakes at County Parks.

ANOULA WYLDERICH (AW) – Since showing the pictures of 7 injured waterfowl at the last meeting, I have been trying to follow the events. I requested an October 3 incident report where someone witnessed two ducks or geese getting killed. I was told there was no report on that date. I have gotten random comments from park visitors who have either contacted me or I have met while out at Sunset Park looking at the situation. One told me there was another duck hurt or killed. They called Park Police and the officer's response was "it happens." Boaters were not spoken to, evicted or cited. Another person said that some time ago a family was hunting ducks and taking them. They called Park Police and no one came. She felt the attitude of the Park Police was anti-animal. She was tired of getting no protection for the animals; she left and never came back. These statements date back to 2002. I received a call from someone who told me they witnessed the leader of the boating group go out on a blue inflatable canoe to move the buoys to enlarge the designated areas where they can operate their boats. I have about 12 identical descriptions of the gentleman who owns the blue canoe. When I went out to the lake, I saw the gentleman and his canoe. It was docked by the area where all the boaters congregate. My understanding is that no watercraft is allowed on the lake. Park visitors told me they have seen boaters leaking oil and gasoline into the lake. Another visitor told me they were present when a wedding party approached the boaters and asked them to hold off for a few minutes so the noise could die down so they could exchange vows and the boaters did not want to cooperate. I took several photographs at an event on October 20. Two of them had boats outside of the designated area. One of them missed a family of geese by about 10 ft. I also have a photo of a watercraft docked in that area. According to NDOW, if it flies it is wildlife and if it doesn't, it is considered domestic so I assume the geese and ducks that cannot fly are under the protection of Animal Control. I couldn't find an ordinance regarding harassment of wildlife. I would think this would fall under animal cruelty. These are not minor, isolated incidents. Dr. Stephanatos was quoted on Channel 13 yesterday stating she has seen the number of injured wildlife double in the last year. It is a significant problem. Whether or not it is intentional doesn't matter. Oil and gasoline are leaking into the lake; wildlife is being harmed. If there is a manpower issue with Park Police, these are problems that have to be addressed. Maybe we need to ban the boats or find a place where they will not come in contact or near the waterfowl. The problem is escalating.

STEVE CORRY (SC), Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation – we are stewards just like you are. We are stewards of parks, facilities, wildlife. We build parks as best we can to be harmonious with wildlife so we are

working on these issues. We operate a little over 100 parks. If there are specific incidents, we want to follow up on those immediately. We work with Animal Control and Park Police. We found Park Police to be very responsive to any concerns we have brought to their attention. As county employees we are all stewards to offer services to the public and act in harmony with the wildlife. If there are specific incidents, please call Park Police at 455-7532. In my conversations with them, they have always responded. We would like to know if there are incidents. I have talked with AW a couple times. Bring that information to us. If we can find individuals who are harassing wildlife, that doesn't work in the park. Refer people to us to provide information. Provide us specifics, time and date, or call right then. Park Police will respond and we will make sure the inappropriate behaviors are not occurring.

KL – I understand this is a multiple use park and I know it is considered an urban pond. It is stocked and fishing is allowed and there is also motorized boating on part of that as well. SC – there is a designated course within the lake and there are boundaries or buoys the boats run around. Those buoys are permanently anchored so they can't be moved. The course is fixed. We work with users for that particular activity as we would with any user of the park to make sure their behavior and their actions don't infringe upon others or upon wildlife. KL – are there any other users of that portion of the park? We have the motorized boats. We have anglers fishing. SC - It is open to public use at all times. When we have events or we have boating going on, there are designated areas for the boating. The fishing is outside of those areas and there are signs there. We try to eliminate conflicts for competing uses. In recreation facilities you are always going to have competing uses for individual spaces and we have that throughout the park. Sunset Park has a master plan and those features are part of that plan as it was planned originally to have a lake. It is a beautiful natural area that the county took possession of in the 1960s and it has been developed to be harmonious with wildlife and with users. KL asked if he saw more waterfowl at certain seasons of the year. Is it a seasonal issue or do we have these competing interests through the year? SC – usually over the winter we will see more waterfowl. It changes from year to year. Some years we will have a certain variety of waterfowl that we hadn't seen before. Our role as a steward is to make sure whatever waterfowl is there, whether it be a medium amount or a large amount, are safe. Park safety, use of the park safely, is our number one concern.

ROBERT MARTINEZ (RM) – I have prepared a brief statement about our organization and the boaters that participate. I am the District Director for NAMBA, North American Model Boat Association. I also sit on the Board of Directors. We have districts across the U.S. I am in charge of So. CA, NV and AZ. I am responsible for all the race sites or all the lakes and all the members that reside in those states. Currently we are having difficulty at Sunset Park and the concerns over the waterfowl at that park. For over 30 years sanctioned RC boating has occurred at Sunset Park without dilemma. In this present day we are faced with a dilemma and are being painted as monsters with toy boats on steroids. That is not the case and not how our organization is represented. The people that participate in our hobby have a deep passion not just for animals but waterfowl, birds, ducks, coots, geese; everything that inhabits Sunset Park is very dear to us. It is of our utmost concern that these birds are protected; that we are their watchers. We work closely with the Park, with Park Police and with the Department of Wildlife (DOW) and will continue to do so. Right now this is an opportunity to further our mission to support the wildlife at Sunset Park by echoing the concerns of the patrons of the park and the activists within the community. There are issues that are not being discussed and we agree that we want to do something about this. We will continue to take the appropriate steps to further the enforcement of our own NAMBA rules and regulations within the boating community and will also inform the Park Police and the DOW of the rules and regulations that we hold ourselves accountable to and empower any of those people to hold the boaters to that as well whether we have to sit down and explain what to look for, what rules and regulations they have. Any boater deemed in violation, it's simple. Walk up; ask them for a NAMBA card. You have to have a license to operate these boats. You have to be a member of NAMBA. Nobody can just purchase these boats or build them in their garage and go out on this lake and zip around. There is a specific course they need to follow; outside those buoys within a certain range. Our rulebook is 7 or 8 inches thick. The first 2 inches talk about safety, the next 2 inches talk about etiquette and the next 2 inches define how to operate your model boat in a safe manner. These cards have clearly defined rules on the back which anybody can ask for, whether it is a patron of the park, Park Police, DOW, Park Management, park maintenance. You can walk over and ask if they have a NAMBA card. Clearly

on the back of the card it says you need a pitman and a spotter watching your boat. The purpose is to watch your vehicle while you are driving. How are you going to watch your boat if there is waterfowl in the way? The pitman points that out to you. Stop, slow down, turn left, get out of the way, shut it down, there is a bird in the way. If a boat operator is by himself running the boat, we want to empower anybody that comes by to ask for the NAMBA card and if they don't have it, tell them they need to leave. Then one of us needs to be contacted with that information and we will handle it. We don't want those people there; we don't want the waterfowl harmed. We have implemented methods in So. CA and AZ that seem to be working. We don't have this problem in either location. We have 4 race sites in So. CA and 3 in AZ. We want to implement this method here so we do not have these problems. It is the simple enforcement of the NAMBA regulations working with County officials. People that participate in our sport run through generations. We have 3, 4 generations of boaters behind us that have lived in Las Vegas and done this for 30 or 40 years. I am a 2nd generation boater and have 3 generations of boaters behind me. This is a hobby that gives kids at a young age an outlet. It grows with them. It stays with them. It is something they can teach their kids. This is more than a bunch of boats running around a pond chasing ducks. We are productive members of society that are not out there running over ducks. We travel the world to race these boats, all over the country. Once a month we race these boats. We clearly are not doing that to run over ducks. The biggest race of the year we have is here in Las Vegas which is a prime location. People come from Kuwait, Japan, Puerto Rico, Canada, Australia, Germany and all across the U.S. to come to Sunset Park, which is the premier location for model boat racing. A lot of people come with that and they support the city as well. We had 355 boats raced Thursday through Sunday; from 8 to 5 and not one bird was harmed or killed. That is what NAMBA stands for. We have rules and regulations in place. We have people in place to prevent things like this from happening. Whether we have a sanctioned race going on or whether you are a NAMBA member testing your equipment, there are rules that need to be followed. If the rules are not being followed, we don't want those people out there. We are a national organization that is very sensitive to waterfowl and every year we give to charities across the U.S., humane societies, animal shelters. We collect donations for that, give to Toys for Tots, build bikes for Friends for Foreign Wars children. We also have a race once a year in El Paso, TX where people travel from all over the U.S. and raise a significant amount of money and donate that to the Autism Research Foundation. Our concern is the same for the animals. We share the same living space with them. It's different than watching them swim around or feeding them bread. Feeding them bread is actually bad as it creates a strain of botulism that can actually kill them so we feed them popcorn. When we go out in our boats, we use popcorn to lure them away. Just because there is a dead duck floating in the water doesn't mean a boat hit it. It could be bread that someone fed them, they can't keep their head up and they drown. If there is a boater that is not licensed and is not following the rules, we don't want them there. We encourage any agency, any person, any committee to contact us. We are transparent. If you want to reach out to us and work through a concern that you have, the door is open. There is no reason communication should not exist. In an effort to work together and come up with a solution, I am here to tell you we agree the wildlife is a concern and we want to be a part of the solution. We want to help. Designated course is outside the buoys. The buoys are anchored; they are not moveable. It is a survey course and they are concreted into the ground. We are allowed to use a raft on the lake because it is non-motorized as long as we have a life jacket. It is in the rules to retrieve a boat if it is stopped for some reason or if we stop the boat if a duck is in the way, we have to be able to go out and get the boat. As far as oil and gas spilling into the lake, these engines are not like your car. There is no oil to spill. The gas is contained in an IV bag that is sealed to the carburetor. There is no gas to spill. All of our fuel systems are sealed. I have been doing this for 21 years and don't believe I have ever spilled any fuel. I can see how that perception can be out there and the oil we do use is biodegradable. I understand how a person not familiar with a RC boat can see them navigating close to birds and see it as threatening. The birds are smart. They hear the boat, they move. We feed them, they move. At no point are we out there to run toward them. It is not about the cost of the boat. It is about the birds. These boats are in excess of \$2,000 to \$5,000 and there is nobody out there that wants to hit a duck with one of those boats. They are made out of fiberglass or wood. If you do that, you lost a substantial amount of money. It is about the bird. Their life is not replaceable. An inanimate object is replaceable but we are looking at it from both sides.

KL – in the races you have done, are you indicating that no bird, as far as you are aware of, has ever been injured? RM – I was local club President for 3 years and held races every Sunday on every month for the 3 years

here at Sunset Park and in not one of my races has a bird ever been injured. This year we had 3 sanctioned races with participants from different states and different parts of the country and I was present at every single one of those races and not one bird was injured or killed in one of those races. We traveled in our district to 9 races a year and not one bird was killed or injured. We traveled to Havasu, Tuscon, Tempe, San Diego where we deal with pelicans. MG – with the license your organization assigns to people, is there an age restriction? RM – there are two categories. Kids are boaters and a rookie class. Rookie requires an adult to be there. Kids can't go by themselves and run the boat. It still requires an adult. My 5-year-old son cannot take one of my boats and run it in the lake by himself but he can be a NAMBA member with a license, however, he has to have a pit person behind him with their hand on the wheel. MG – you indicated the rules are followed here and in other jurisdictions. What do you want the Committee to address? RM – to be aware of them. They are available on line. I want to share it with the park, with Park Police and say this is what you are looking for. We want to be part of the solution. We know you have a lot of things going on. How can we help? Please call us. I live right around the corner from Sunset Park.

MG – there is open use and then you have your sanctioned events. Is it possible the open use users are not members of your group? Something is falling through the cracks somewhere. Open use is allowed and they are not required to pay fees. Is there anyone monitoring that? Are they the rogue operators hitting the animals? SC – the requirement is posted to have the NAMBA card with you at all times. We talked with Park Police who indicate that they will check for that card. Regulating everything 100% of the time, having police officers on every corner is not always possible. We are here to work with you and want your help in identifying anybody who doesn't fit that criteria because we want the facility operated in that way. It is safe if those requirements are adhered to. If somebody does not have that card or they are not adhering to the safety principles, they will not be able to use the facility until they have that card and are willing to abide by those guidelines. MG – the end result needs to alleviate any injuries to the animals. There are pictures of injured waterfowl; actual injuries to wings and such. Can you speak with the County about installing net fencing, something that would be outside your boundaries so the boats don't go further into the duck area? Maybe you can pay for something like that as part of your donations. Something like a physical barrier so the animals don't go into the lanes. SC – for safety, we are willing to consider everything. We would want to speak with CCAC and DOW to see what they would recommend. As you look at those features, netting could cause the waterfowl to be caught in that. Whatever we do, we want to do safely. We are happy to sit down with any of you to brainstorm and come up with some ideas to make it safer and check with DOW and use their expertise to see what they might suggest. DW – what is the waterfowl density now in comparison to when the park first started offering all the different services? Wondering if this is a problem because we have more birds on the water now, more boaters or a combination? SC – we have a larger population in our valley and there might be some other activity that is also causing damage to the wildlife, whether it is people showing up and not being respectful. The population is seasonal. I can't point to a particular aspect of demographics that say this timeframe is worse than others, or we see more injuries. We appreciate your help. You obviously have a pulse on people who see animals. If we see more of that, we want to be aware of it and identify the danger. I haven't seen any trends. DW doesn't frequent the park. SC in January, February, there are more waterfowl until it gets a little warmer and then some of them leave. Some are year round.

MP – obviously we respect responsible boat owners but there are always some rogues out there not knowing what they are doing. They may not even be a member of your organization. If I were out there, would I know what they were supposed to be doing? Probably not. Any chance any of your members would be willing to do some volunteer work and police this to see if people are doing the wrong things. RM – absolutely. MP – a layperson would not be able to go up and ask somebody for their NAMBA card and say they are doing things wrong. A fellow boater who knows what they are talking about they may not be abrupt with. RM- that would not be a problem. We want to work with the Parks Department to self-police this. That is what is working in AZ and So. CA right now. MP – with them being called on for doing something wrong, we may have fewer incidents of these people coming to the park. Is there a fine for operating the RC boat without the appropriate license? SC would have to get back to you as he is not familiar with the Park Police ordinance that would specifically spell that out. Park Police may not be able to write a ticket but they could be ejected from the Park. MP – so there is

no consequence? SC needs to check with Park Police. RM believes there should be some sort of infraction. We could meet with Park Police, get on the same page. MP asks the top speed of the boats. RM – 70. MP – what is the deceleration to 0 if you stop? RM – 2 or 3 feet. If you really wanted to, you could stop the boat in 1 foot. MP – basically there should be minimal risk to waterfowl if somebody knows what they are doing.

MG – regarding following up with your staff regarding the use of a motorized boat. Someone calls says I have a motorized boat and they are told sure come on out. That goes against the requirement for a NAMBA license. We all need to be on the same page, from staff that answers the phone to members of the user groups. SC has already followed up on that. We hire a number of part time people and they may not always have all the information but our number is 455-8200. Please call anytime there is a question. You have my contact information or 455-7532 for Park Police. If you are on site, please help us look at the situation and monitor the environment.

SHANE FOREST (SF) is the longest residing member of this area and has been boating on that lake since I was 12 years old in 1982. I am a 2nd generation boater and my son is a 3rd generation boater. We do this as a family and love it. We would really hate to see problems at the pond. NAMBA is a sanctioned racing association and gives us insurance. If we hurt anybody, we are covered by a 1 million dollar insurance policy. There have been several times when we have gone down there and actually saved ducks ourselves. We haul our boats down to the launch ramp, there is a duck sitting in the launch area with fishing line wrapped around its feet or it will have a hook in its mouth and we try to help the birds. We have done that several times. There are other issues beside the boaters. It is a great idea to have somebody in charge of looking at NAMBA cards. I would be happy to come up with a plan for this. There needs to be somebody appointed because the rogue boaters will give them a problem. I have asked for a NAMBA card myself and they want to know who I am. So if there was somebody appointed to this position or maybe two people, one for Saturday and one for Sunday, I think that would alleviate a lot of problems with people having attitudes toward us. I don't like to ask for a NAMBA card because I get hassled about it. I go down there to have fun with my son not to get harassed or hassled.

GINA GREISEN (GG) – sounds like there are more questions than answers. Maybe there does need to be a subcommittee created to sit down and talk about this. Does the insurance cover injured animals as well? Are there penalties for a NAMBA member that is caught hurting a bird, intentionally or not? Are there signs in the park that clearly state it is illegal to harass wildlife?

SF thinks it would be a wonderful idea for a fine to be implemented for boaters that do not have NAMBA cards. If you don't teach them to do something right, they will do it again and again. There has to be a penalty for it so if we penalize these boaters they are either not going to come back any more or they are going to have to lay out a bunch of money. Think it should be a hefty fine.

KL is concerned about what this Committee can do since we are an advisory committee to the BCC. Asked SC if he could get some people together, RM and AW. I spoke with Rob Bonameccci who is head of enforcement for NDOW. Harassment of wildlife is not applicable with this situation. He did indicate we might want to look at the permits. If you have to have a permit to operate the boat, then if you don't have one, there needs to be a penalty. That would require a county ordinance so that is something we probably want to look at. NDOW suggested an ordinance about interfering with wildlife. They had some suggestions for that and I will be happy to provide wording. Right now, Park Police doesn't have an ordinance they can use to cite that person. We may want to keep animal cruelty separate. SC – we would be willing to have a member from your group, from our department, Animal Control, Park Police, AW or anybody else who is interested to meet and talk about guidelines with the boating segment and come together with some action items we can implement to make it a safer area. KL – I am reluctant to have someone from the AAC sit on that committee as our term is about up. Maybe someone from CCAC and perhaps DW (understanding that you may not be on the AAC next year). NDOW may be willing especially if we have a problem with some of the anglers and perhaps some of what they are doing is causing the problem. SC would be happy to have 1 or 2 people as members of the public. We often do that with a number of our projects. We have citizens who participate to provide input from members of the community. KL asked if he would be willing to get back to the Committee by June of next year so we would have some of the stuff in place

before we have the next influx in the fall. SC suggested keeping the AAC up to date on an ongoing basis as we come up with things we are going to do to improve the situation. If we have some e-mail addresses, we can have people in an e-mail group to keep them updated. KL suggested that RM have a reward of \$500 in case people do see birds being injured by people. That might be something that would be helpful to get these issues out there, something that would be an incentive to report these types of incidents. MP – do the people who check NAMBA cards have authority from the county to do that? You can hook up a camera there with live feed to see what is going on. There are a lot of things to do to catch people who are behaving this way.

5. **Receive a report from the Animal Foundation on behavior evaluation and decision making process.**

CARLY SCHOLTEN (CS), Director of Operations at AFI, KL let me know there were questions about our decision making process so I am here to tell you a little about that and answer any questions you may have. Our behavior evaluation process was created and implemented by Dr. Crista Coppola. Dr. Coppola obtained her PhD in Animal Behavior with Temple Grandin at Colorado State University. Her dissertation work focused on reducing stress in shelter dogs while at the same time improving their chances for adoption, and is published in Physiology and Behavior journal and the Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science. She has presented her work at meetings of the Animal Behavior Society, American Society for Animal Sciences, Interdisciplinary Forum for Applied Animal Behavior and International Conference on Environmental Enrichment. Dr. Coppola has also guest lectured at Colorado State University, Cornell University and Purdue University on companion animal behavior, and is currently adjunct faculty in Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois. In 2009 she came out and helped develop this process based on her knowledge of animal behavior and our resources, based on the number of animals we have coming in every year. She spent time with our team training them to make sure they were performing these evaluations correctly and consistently to get the best possible results for our animals.

I will describe our process and how after the evaluation process, we address behaviors that may come up. MP asked if there was a form that he could see. CS stated we have a standard operating procedure but she did not bring that with her. When an animal arrives at the shelter, the receiving team processes them. They are the first one hands on with the animal; they take in information from animal control or whoever brings us the animal. They make sure the animal does not need medical attention; vaccinate the animal, scan for a microchip, take a picture, enter the information in our database and determine where it will be placed in our shelter for the duration of their legal hold. Our evaluation processes are organized through our electronic database. It is a very sophisticated database that keep track of where animals are at in the evaluation process to make sure nothing falls through the cracks. For dogs, the day following intake, they receive their first behavior evaluation. We call that their aggression screen. It happens at the kennel with the animal and it is a cursory evaluation to make sure they are safe to handle. Basically, are we able to safely perform a physical exam on that animal if needed if a medical issue arises? As long as the animal is safe to handle, they would go on to the next step in the process. If, during that evaluation, they show any sign of aggression, like growling, lunging, snarling, trying to bite, at that time the evaluator would determine based on the severity whether or not that animal would be a rescue candidate or a candidate for euthanasia. Animals that don't pass their aggression screen are not suitable for adoption because they are not safe for basic handling. If the animal doesn't show aggression but they are scared or unresponsive, we will give them more time to adjust and we take into consideration that the shelter can be a stressful environment for a lot of these animals. We want to give them the most fair and objective evaluation as possible. Once a dog passes the aggression screen, they receive a placement evaluation the following day. They are taken out of their kennel and brought to our behavior evaluation room where they go through further interactions with our behavior evaluation team. We check to see if they know any basic commands, what their energy level is, how they interact with other dogs. We also do additional handling to make sure they are safe to go into a new home. If at that time we find any issues, that doesn't exclude them from going to adoption, but we make sure that those minor concerns, like high energy and they jump a lot are noted especially if it is a big dog so our staff at adoptions are aware that a family who wants to adopt that dog is prepared to deal with that or so they can decide if that is the best dog for them. As long as there aren't issues, the animal would go up for adoption. If we find

issues at that time, we would consider whether the dog was a rescue candidate, adoption candidate or euthanasia candidate. Any time an animal is in our facility, they are constantly being observed and evaluated by the staff. Whether in the shelter or in adoptions, if a behavior issue is observed, our staff notes a behavior alert. A note is also placed in our database. We found our staff doesn't always have access to computers so we place a note on the kennel card. As our behavior evaluation team is going through the dog rooms, they will see those alerts and address them. They are addressed based on what the issue is. If a dog is in adoptions and it was observed showing aggression toward another dog, our behavior team would go out, remove the dog from the kennel, do several dog introductions with different size and gender dogs to see how the dog that was observed having the issue reacts to those dogs. If at any time we see an aggression issue that would be a cause for concern for someone's safety, we determine at that time if the dog is a rescue candidate or a euthanasia candidate because with those aggression issues we don't feel it is responsible for us to leave that animal in adoptions. Other issues that might come up are growling or lunging or trying to bite staff, volunteers or patrons. If that happens the evaluation is different, depending on what the animal will allow us to do, we want our staff to be safe but they will try to handle the animal again to see if they find any issues. If they do or don't that will help us to reconsider whether or not that animal should stay in adoptions. It is never black and white. There is a lot of grey and it is taken on a case-by-case basis. If there is any opportunity for that animal to be placed with a rescue or a foster, we do look for those opportunities. Only if we feel the animal is not safe to be put back into the community or if a rescue does not come forward to accept an animal do we move toward the decision of euthanasia.

Cats only receive one evaluation and it is very similar to dogs. It happens on their second day with us and we do basic handling with the cat to make sure they are safe to handle. An important thing for our cats is they allow us to pick them up to make sure staff can safely take them out of their cage, put them back in their cage and the same thing for our adopters. They don't have to let us hold them for a long time, they just have to be safe to put in or out of the cage. If issues come up at any time during their stay in our main shelter or in adoptions, then their behavior would be reevaluated. Just like the dogs, we know it can take a cat a very long time to adjust to a new environment so as long as they are not being fractious or outwardly aggressive where it would be a safety concern for our staff, volunteers or patrons, they are given time to go into adoptions where it is a quieter environment to see if they will come out of their shell and find a new home.

MP – you mentioned several steps in the behavior evaluation, what is the average length of time for a dog from arrival to being euthanized? CS – our average length of stay for all animals from intake to outcome is about 6.5 days. MP – euthanasia particularly, not the overall? CS doesn't have that number. MP – so all these steps would have to be taken before it is euthanized. CS – there is no specific time limit. MP – there are a lot of steps, very good steps but if a dog is euthanized in 2 days, there is no way you get to all of them. I want to know how long before they arrive and are euthanized on a behavioral basis do they have to be done. CS – the legal stray hold is 72 hours; owner surrenders are 24 hours and then there are holds that are 10 days or longer depending on why the animal comes to us. MP – animals don't get all these steps before they are euthanized so they can be done within 72 hours? CS – they will receive their aggression screen and their placement evaluation specifically for the dogs during their first 72 hours at our facility. MP - In medicine we have a lot of reputable doctors writing various articles that aren't worth the paper they are written on. I review them, comment and critique them. There is such a thing as author bias, observer bias, population bias, condition bias, all these things. Were her recommendations adopted anywhere else? Have they been subjected to scientific review and peer review? CS – I am not aware of whether or not it has been subject to peer review. MP – do you think it would be a good idea to get other opinions. DW knows her professionally and I do utilize her in behavioral consultations in my own practice. She is legit and as a veterinarian, I don't question her credentials. MP – we have an inordinate amount of animals euthanized in this county. Reno has no kill. Los Angeles has no kill. I am trying to figure out what we are going to do to reduce that. Is behavior analysis one of the things that can be done? CS – how we evaluate the animals, whether it is for medical or behavior, plays into the decisions we make as to whether an animal is euthanized or not. As our intake numbers come down, so do our euthanasia numbers and I have numbers with me tonight if you would like me to go over them through October. As our numbers go down that allows us the opportunity to treat or rehabilitate medical and behavior issues. MP – does the percentage go down? CS – our euthanasia rate is going down. MP asked how they were progressing on the No Kill approach. KL – we need to understand that

this Committee because the county contracts with AFI, leaves the issue of how those dogs are evaluated to AFI. The contract may not even discuss that. You can ask questions but I don't believe under the purview of this Committee, we have the ability to say yea or nay. We can discuss No Kill. I am trying to be careful because we have to keep on the agenda item and this agenda item is not about the merits of the No Kill movement. This agenda item was to address the behavior evaluation and decision making process. We asked AFI to come here tonight to talk about that. It is not under the purview of this Committee to say whether or not that's a good or a bad process. That is something that is contracted by the County. When the contract comes up again in the future, that could be an agenda item that could be discussed at that time. MP – my point is behavior analysis is one of the things that goes into what animals are able to be adopted, rescued or euthanized which affects the kill rate. I am extrapolating on that to find out how we improve that. One person's view may not be everybody's. Wondering if you looked at other behaviorists. Do they have any additions to it, critiques of it? CS – it is her evaluation that she created specifically for our shelter based on her background and knowledge of the field. It is very similar to Safer Evaluation that was created by Sue Sternberg and also resembles an evaluation that is used widely that was created by Dr. Emily Weiss. MG – do you have continual training on these issues? CS – continuing education is important for our medical and behavior team; for the medical team, it is actually required. For the behavior team we are constantly working with them to stay up to speed on what's new in the field, make sure their handling practices are the safest they can be because they are putting themselves in precarious situations having to handle these different animals. Last month Dr. Coppola came out to visit with our team. She met with a wide variety of the staff and spent over half a day with our behavior evaluation team observing them to make sure that since 2009, we have stayed on track and continuing to perform those evaluations consistently and as she prescribed. She was very happy with what she saw and we are working to implement additional levels of evaluation; more in-depth dog introductions and testing, an example would be resource guarding.

KL assumes that as impounds go down and you have more space available, AFI will have more latitude to look at those dogs in a second light. CS – absolutely and I should clarify that 6.5 days is everything from the animals that come in and have to be euthanized immediately because it was hit by a car all the way to the animals that are with us for well over a year for a confiscation court case. We have dogs and cats in our adoption area that have been there over 3 months. We are always looking for ways to improve their quality of life while they are with us, enrichment for them to keep them healthy and behaviorally sound while they are with us and it gives us more latitude to treat animals with minor medical issues like upper respiratory infections or for dogs whose arousal level is so high they are not safe to handle because they are not getting the adequate level of exercise they need. We have the volunteer resources and staff resources to work with those issues and if we aren't able to, we will reach out to our rescue partners. KL asked if you have an aggressive dog that is clearly aggressive, do you make the decision to euthanize that dog once you have gone through this process? Or do you at some point decide the rescue may be able to deal with that aggression better? RD is very involved in these issues so I am sorry he is not here tonight. CS – it depends on the severity of the aggression. If we feel the dog is a public safety risk, we do not feel it is a responsible decision to put that animal back into the community. A great example of that would be severe dog aggression. In certain scenarios that issue can be managed, possibly even rehabilitated, but often times we don't feel it is a responsible decision to make. There are a lot of behavior issues we see, like resource guarding, less severe dog aggression and handling issues for dogs that maybe are just scared or undersocialized that we will offer to our rescue partners and we will leave it up to them to determine what they are capable and qualified and ready to accept and work with. KL – do you know the percent of animals that have been returned from adoption because of animal bites? CS can get that number for you.

TERRI PARKS – I am specifically talking about dogs that are in the adoption bungalows and have been there for a week or so. Time and time again in the adoption kennels, they are pulled to be killed because of cage reaction or high energy. I have witnessed them in the play area and a behavior person came up and asked who it was and the dog was euthed the next day for high energy. These are facts. It is in their computers. I know this for a fact and it needs to be addressed and they will get medical or behavior cards and be euthed in a few days. There are many dogs that are in a kennel and don't get walked every day and the dogs will be reactive when someone comes to the kennel but it doesn't mean they are an aggressive dog. You open the kennel, take the dog out and the dog is happy. Who wants to be confined? That is not a reason to kill an animal.

CS – regarding behavior or medical alerts being placed on the animals, when a behavior is observed, that doesn't mean the animal is no longer able to stay in adoptions. It means staff noticed an issue and we are going to reevaluate the animal. The specific situation we are talking about for behavior issues, for dogs who are cage reactive doesn't mean they can't stay in adoptions. If the behavior alert, as an example, says the dog is hard barking and growling when I approach the kennel, the behavior team will approach the kennel and oftentimes we actually have several people approach the kennel because dogs act differently with different people to see what the reaction of the animal is. The next step is to take the animal out of the kennel as long as it is safe to determine if there are handling issues. We are very aware that in a kenneling situation there can be barrier aggression or barrier frustration and a lot of time that is why the dogs will bark. That is not an automatic reason for an animal to be listed for rescue or euthanasia, only if the animal is causing a safety concern is the animal removed from our adoption department. MP – what is the training of the staff making the medical comments? CS- the alerts can be filled out by any of the staff and if a volunteer observes an issue they will let a staff member know and they will fill out that card. It can be any level staff, animal care attendant all the way up through the director, executive director or myself. They are not diagnosing the animal. They are simply writing down their observation. In a medical situation it would be the dog is coughing, the dog has diarrhea and we actually have a chart so they can grade the diarrhea. The dog has nasal discharge; it is clear discharge; it is yellow discharge. Then the medical team, our veterinarians, or behavior evaluation team come and makes the determination for the best course of treatment or action for that animal.

GG thinks there are too many questions on both sides of this issue. Nevada Voters for Animals has requested some form of a town hall or community meeting to address these concerns. I have had conversations with Chris and CS. Even if we are talking about a couple hundred or a couple thousand animals per year with behavior issues, we are killing 26,000 animals at the shelter and that is a community issue that must be addressed. There is dissension brewing as to whether we should look at this philosophy versus this reality. Would like to see a community meeting to address these issues. We need a community solution for this community problem to get to the root of the problem of pet overpopulation.

6. Discuss Bat Awareness and outreach efforts for educating the public.

DW – in the spring of 2013 there were at least 3 documented cases of bats that were found dead or subsequently died that were positive for rabies. Some of these were in family situations so it does raise concerns of rabies in our community not only for pets but for humans as well. In animals it is almost 100 % fatal and in humans. A lot of our residents have the mistaken belief that if you have an indoor pet, they do not need to have a current rabies vaccine; that they are somehow safe from the risk. Cats will hunt them and bring them into the home so there is a possibility. As I was looking at this issue, I came up with some goals for how we can improve rabies vaccination compliance for pet owners within our community. Also want to look at how we can make this affordable for those underserved areas to see if that is why pets are not coming in to get vaccinated. Also to work on a public awareness drive to educate the community about rabies, why we vaccinate and to teach children respect for wildlife and not to approach them if they appear injured. I obtained some extensive information through the medical reserve corps which is a volunteer organization of medical professionals and paraprofessionals. We also have a local veterinary volunteer group that I am involved with that shared a lot of great information from across the country of rabies clinics they have been involved with within their communities. I would like to see something like that happen on this scale here in Vegas. As an example in Santa Rosa, CA within 3 hours a veterinarian and the medical reserve corps volunteers vaccinated 350 pets. Another group in AZ vaccinated 800 pets within 4 ½ hours. I am sure we have the need here. It is just a matter of finding how we can get people together to make this a reality. Some great things that come up through their experiences were the ways this was being implemented. They had drive through clinics which sounded very attractive as it helped to keep the dog contained, decreased the potential for fighting, decreased their stress as well as waste issues. They had walk through clinics that might be held at pet events or other things that are already going on. It seemed as if the scope and the volume came more from the drive through clinic. Cats were also included in some of their vaccination efforts but usually required special housing for safe handling so they wouldn't escape. We do have a community animal control RV which would be great for something like that. The benefit of doing a rabies vaccine clinic

would improve our vaccine base for our local pets. The secondary benefit that could help the community is to help drive those people into seeking basic veterinary care and encourage compliance with the s/n ordinance. Some of these animals don't ever go to the vet so if we can get them introduced to veterinary care at least we have an opportunity to educate them on some other issues. Some negatives that I can see for implementing a vaccine clinic could be fear from some of the pet owners of government oversight or concerns that they might be cited if their pet was not s/n. Cost is the greatest hurdle. Who is going to be able to put this all together? Manpower we can get pretty easily; it is just the other details. Other negatives in operating something like this would be the bite injury liability and having support people who can help make it happen. This would be a great push for 2014 and I would like to see a subcommittee where we can do something in either the spring or on rabies day in the fall. KL – when the next committee meets we can have an agenda item to discuss the issue of increasing rabies vaccinations. AV was also involved in her school regarding rabies awareness. We ended up getting brochures for our school; we talked to all the members in our club and will have a meeting soon with people outside of our club

MG – the awareness thing is great even in the equestrian community. I have been told by one of my vets that if an animal in your barn gets rabies, all the animals have to be euthanized. Awareness and education is going to be a big component that we need to get out to the general public.

7. Discuss emerging issues and information among Advisory Committee Members; and take appropriate action.

None

8. Comments by the General Public

JANA WRIGHT (JW) – at the last BCC meeting on November 5 they had a discussion item which is the first of their 3-step process. It was held because the meeting went so long but on Tuesday, November 19; Item number 44 is a discussion item to go to 2 year staggered terms and 1 year for the student. If the BCC has an appetite to move forward and we are hopeful they will, then on December 3 there will be an introduction of an ordinance with the public hearing being held on December 17, 2013. You may want to send e-mail to the County Commissioners that you support this.

JANICE RIDONDO (JR) – was sick at the last zoning meeting and heard the big cats were approved. Was Keith Williams there? No – JR asked DW about pigs that were rescued from Craig's List. The mom is a black potbelly and the dad was a tall black potbelly with a really long snout. She threw 4 piglets the first time. 3 died, the lady sold one. The next litter she threw 7 and 3 of them are striped. I am hoping they are grayling stripers but my sense tells me they are not. If they are ferals, they are some of the first ones in So. NV and this is scary. Have you seen these stripes before? DW – I have not but when you described the long snout, I started to think of any kind of domestic or feral pig that does not fit with the type of a potbelly. JR – we have such an epidemic, not a lot of people know about it or talk about it. There is another rescue in town and we can't have these guys. We will need to have a relationship with Pahrump because so many of these pigs come out of Pahrump. The dad became so aggressive. She is a sweet lady; she is a foster mom for children. She got involved in this and \$800 later those 4 are neutered. She did sell 3 but doesn't know who they went to which is why we don't want backyard breeders. She gave away the mom but doesn't know who it went to and the dad went to Pahrump. I am still working with the woman trying to get any information I can. I will pay to neuter this pig but we can't make any more of these feral babies. It is a very different pig that we don't need in So. NV.

AMY ROUSE wanted to bring up an issue regarding pet overpopulation that we don't hear much about, our local pet stores. Not the ones that offer dogs for adoption or sell supplies but the ones that are getting puppies from high volume commercial dog breeding operations, puppy mills. They produce millions of dogs every year in poor conditions. The last thing CC needs is thousands of puppies brought in from puppy mills and being sold at local pet stores such as Petland, Princess Puppies, Puppies Boutique just to name a few. Cities such as San Diego,

LA and 13 other cities in CA have passed ordinances banning the sale of these commercial bred dogs, cats and rabbits in pet stores unless they come from shelters or rescue groups. These pet stores did not go out of business but have become very successful selling dogs from local shelters and rescues. By cutting off the supply of milled puppies being imported into the community, they are addressing the puppy mill problem while increasing adoption opportunities for pets in local shelters. Pet stores that offer animals for adoption relieve the burden on shelters and rescues by getting homeless pets into retail settings where they have a greater chance of being seen by the public. Some people don't know where to go for a puppy and sometimes the first thing they think of is the pet store. Some people find the shelter setting too sad. By putting the shelter dogs in the retail setting it seems more desirable. It is an increasingly popular model and a win/win for the community and the animals. Since many dogs in shelters are actually castoffs from people who purchased them from the pet stores, banning retail sales will help reduce the numbers being killed in our shelters. We are supporting puppies being bred in factory like settings. These puppies are being sold unfixed, unvaccinated, unmicrochipped. We are holding the rescues to the Gold Standards but pet shops practice absolutely minimum standards of care. Breeding laws for backyard breeding are lax. It is easy to obtain a breeders license and they are selling unfixed dogs. Between the pet shops and backyard breeders, with or without licenses, selling thousands of dogs to people who may or may not fix the animal that in turn produces thousands more animals. I frequent many animal friendly places. I see unfixed dogs all the time. I tell them it is the law and they either had no idea or don't care. I would love to see CC ban the sale of puppy mill puppies, make it harder to obtain a breeders' license and we need to enforce the s/n law.

KL – AAC last year made that proposal and it hasn't gone anywhere. That was put on the plate of CCAC to look at but there would have to be a business impact study before we could move forward.

9. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

Staff will set meeting after appointments have been made after appointment by the BCC.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm